Upward revision of freight in parcel van

3157. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after passing of Railway Budget, 2005-06, the Government have made upward revision of freight in parcel van; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Railways have been incurring huge losses in parcel services due to low rate despite very quick service by passenger carrying trains and special parcel trains. Increase has been made in the Parcel Scale rate to reduce the losses and to meet with the increased cost of service.

Special Railway Protection Squads

†3158. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to constitute Special Railway Protection Squads in view of the incidence of kidnapping in trains, capturing of trains and blowing up of railway tracks previously due to growing Naxalite influence in the areas of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh etc.

(b) whether in view of the large size of the Railways, Government would consider to have a monitoring scheme by satellite;

(c) whether Government would also consider to reduce the crowd on platforms in view of the security of the passengers; and

(d) by when a detailed scheme would be prepared in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Standing Committee on Railways in their 21st Report (2005-06) on Terminal Facilities in Metropolitan Cities has recommended that only genuine passengers with the restricted number of accompanying

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

persons should be allowed at the platforms as is being done in the case of airports. Efforts are being made to have a consensus view on this subject. Therefore, no formal decision on this recommendation has yet been taken.

(d) Does not arise.

Eastern freight corridor

3159. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct eastern freight corridor linking east coast ports to handle containerized traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time-frame within which the corridor linking Paradip and other ports in the Orissa State would be taken up and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Eastern Corridor of Dedicated Freight Corridor Project is proposed to be constructed from Ludhiana to Sonnagar. Later it will be extended to the proposed Deep Sea Port in Kolkata area in view of increased freight traffic.

(c) Paradip and other ports in Orissa will be connected with the Eastern Freight Corridor.

Pending rail line in Andhra Pradesh

3160. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending railway lines in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the reasons for pendency; and

(c) the expected time to complete the lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Pending projects are considered as those projects which have been included in the Budget subject to the proviso that work would be taken up after requisite clearances have been obtained.